

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-06 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SOE-02
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R 132234Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EGEN, EINV, BEXP, NI

SUBJECT:BILATERAL ECONOMIC TALKS: JOINT STATEMENT

REF: LAGOS 150

1. DEPARTMENT HAS COMPARED ORIGINAL US VERSION OF JOINT
STATEMENT WITH THAT APPROVED BY NIGERIAN CABINET OFFICE AND
CONCURRED IN BY EMBASSY, AND NOTES FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT
CHANGES: A) PAGE FOUR, FIRST FULL PARA OF NIGERIAN VERSION
OMITS FOLLOWING SENTENCE: "IN THE MEANTIME, THE FMG AGREED
TO EXPEDITE APPROVAL REQUESTS AND TO REDUCE PROCESSING TIME
NOT TO EXCEED FOUR WEEKS." OPIC SAYS MININDUSTRIES PERMSEC
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JODA MADE THIS COMMITMENT. B) PAGE FIVE, LAST PARA OF THE
NIGERIAN VERSION OMITS A PHRASE IN WHICH THE FMG PROMISED TO
"REVIEW RESTRICTIONS AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS" (TO TRADE).
USDOC REP ON USDEL NOTES THIS COMMITMENT WAS MADE BY M.A.
NYA, PRINCIPLE SECRETARY MINTRADE. C) SAME PARAGRAPH, THE
NIGERIAN VERSION OMITS THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE: "ON PETROLEUM,
THE NIGERIAN DELEGATION TOOK NOTE AND AGREED TO HOLD MEETINGS

ON A MORE TECHNICAL LEVEL."

2. GIVEN EMBASSY'S "PERMISSION" TO MEA TO USE DOCUMENT, WE DOUBT ATTEMPT TO RESTORE THESE OMISSIONS WOULD BE EITHER

WELL REGARDED BY THE FMG OR SUCCESSFUL. NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY SHOULD ATTEMPT TO SECURE RESTORATION, AT LEAST OF FIRST TWO OMISSIONS WHICH DEAL WITH OPIC AND TRADE. OPIC IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE FMG'S UNWILLINGNESS TO EXPEDITE APPROVALS UNDER EXISTING PROCEDURES, WHILE CONSIDERING AUTOMATIC APPROVALS PER SMITH/JODA LETTER, WOULD RETURN STATUS OF OPIC PROGRAMS IN NIGERIA TO UNSATISFACTORY POSITION EXISTING PRIOR TO ECONOMIC BILATERALS. IF THIS IS NOT SUCCESSFUL, OR IF THE PROCESS APPEARS TO BE A LONG ONE, THE EMBASSY SHOULD NOTIFY MEA BY NOTE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES. "COMPLIMENTARY OPENING AND HONOR TO STATE THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CAN ACCEPT THE TEXT OF THE PROCES-VERBAL ON THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE NIGERIAN-AMERICAN TEAMS OF OFFICIALS IN LAGOS ON NOV. 7-9 1977 AS APPROVED BY THE FMG. HOWEVER, THE TEXT OMITTS TWO SIGNIFICANT PASSAGES THAT APPEARED IN EARLIER DRAFTS. US DELEGATION RECALLS THAT MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES PERMANENT SECRETARY AGREED, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE US DELEGATION, TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESSING OF REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL OF INSURANCE APPLICATIONS AND TO REDUCE THE TIME REQUIRED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO PROCESS THESE APPLICATIONS TO LESS THAN FOUR WEEKS. SIMILARLY, THE US DELEGATION RECALLS THAT THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF TRADE AGREED TO REVIEW RESTRICTIONS AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS IN US/NIGERIAN TRADE. THE US DELEGATION ATTACHED CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THESE STATEMENTS AT THE TIME, AND HOPES THAT THEY CONTINUE TO REPRESENT THE POSITION OF THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT. COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.

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3. AS OCCASION ARISES, THE EMBASSY SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO ASCERTAIN REASONS FOR CHANGES NOTED PARAGRAPH ONE ABOVE AND WHETHER THEY REPRESENT SUBSTANTIVE POLICY CHANGES ON THE PART OF THE FMG. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE HELPFUL TO US PARTICIPANTS IN WORKING GROUPS IN FUTURE BILATERAL MEETINGS.

4. DEPARTMENT WILL TRANSMIT JOINT STATEMENT AND COPY OF EMBASSY'S NOTE TO MEA TO NIGERIAN EMBASSY HERE AS SOON AS EMBASSY SUPPLIES TEXT AND CONFIRMS DELIVERY.

5. SUBSEQUENT CABLE WILL COVER DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTIONS

FOR MEETINGS OF WORKING GROUPS. VANCE

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